

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

Property Name: East Towson Survey District Inventory Number: BA-2564
Address: _____ Historic district: X yes _____ no
City: Towson Zip Code: 21204 County: Baltimore County
USGS Quadrangle(s): Towson
Property Owner: _____ Tax Account ID Number: _____
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): _____ Tax Map Number: 70
Project: TEA-21 DOE Agency: Maryland Historical Trust
Agency Prepared By: Maryland Historical Trust
Preparer's Name: Peter Kurtze Date Prepared: 6/23/2004
Documentation is presented in: MIHP Form BA-2564
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: _____ Eligibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: _____ yes Listed: _____ yes
Site visit by MHT Staff X yes _____ no Name: Peter Kurtze Date: 6/22/2004

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The East Towson Survey District comprises a collection of primarily residential resources illustrating the development of an African-American enclave beginning in the latter half of the 19th century. The neighborhood traces its history to 1853, when the first land was purchased by Daniel Harris, an African-American. The majority of the properties date from the late 19th and early twentieth century, and represent a range of vernacular building types characteristic of the region in the period.

A comprehensive survey of East Towson was carried out in 1978, and the district was determined eligible for the National Register by the Keeper on September 26, 1980. Further documentation on the neighborhood was compiled in 2002 as part of a study of African-American communities throughout Baltimore County. All previous survey information was consulted, and numerous site visits were conducted for the purpose of the present evaluation.

Over the quarter century since East Towson was first surveyed, several factors have adversely affected the integrity of the neighborhood. Several properties have been converted from residential to commercial use, particularly in the western part of the neighborhood where it adjoins Towson's expanding business district. The construction of several large-scale buildings just outside the district on the west, and the expansion of Pennsylvania Avenue into a major thoroughfare on the north, have encroached upon

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended X
Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G
MHT Comments:

Peter Kurtze
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Date

Peter Kurtze
Reviewer, National Register Program

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Date

the neighborhood and compromised its integrity of setting, feeling, and association. Several houses have been demolished and replaced with new buildings that are incompatible with the older structures' form, materials, and use: examples include a townhouse development in the northeast portion of the neighborhood and a large church complex in the southeast. The design of other replacement buildings, such as the St. Ambrose housing on Lennox Ave., shows an effort to respect the architectural context of the neighborhood, but these houses nevertheless differ substantially in form, massing, setback, and materials from the older buildings, and are located on consolidated lots which disrupt the rhythm of the streetscape. A few random infill buildings have been constructed in various locations; these houses conform to late 20th century suburban types which have no relation to the existing building stock. Many of the older houses in the neighborhood have been altered since the initial survey through the application of synthetic siding, installation of replacement windows, and other changes which cumulatively result in compromising the area's sense of time and place. Finally, some of the older buildings have suffered extensive deterioration. As a result of all the factors cited above, the East Towson neighborhood no longer retains sufficient integrity to meet National Register criteria.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEWEligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended X Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Peter Kurtze

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

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Date

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DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

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City: Towson Zip Code: _____ County: Baltimore County
USGS Quadrangle(s): Towson
Property Owner: _____ Tax Account ID Number: _____
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): _____ Tax Map Number: _____
Project: _____ Agency: HUD/CD
Agency Prepared By: J. London, HUD/CD
Preparer's Name: _____ Date Prepared: 9/18/1980
Documentation is presented in: federal files
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: X Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: X A X B X C D Considerations: A B C D E F G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: yes Listed: yes
Site visit by MHT Staff yes X no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

No description on DOE form--see Draft NR nomination form in survey notebook for more info.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: X A X B X C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments: Federal DOE

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

B. MacDougal, for Keeper NR

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

Friday, September 26, 1980

Date

BA-2564
East Towson African American Survey District
Towson, Baltimore County
1869-1940s

East Towson is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, specifically the pre-Civil War development of an African-American neighborhood in a predominately white community. The history of the district dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures. Many of the current homeowners and tenants living in the neighborhood are descendents of the first African-American residents.

Architecturally, East Towson illustrates distinctive vernacular characteristics of a particular architectural style and period, specifically the Queen Anne and Gothic Revival styles of the late 19th century and the Craftsman style of the early 20th century. East Towson as a whole is representative of an important phase of architectural development in Baltimore County, illustrating the dilution of popular architectural styles to more efficiently meet the needs of the neighborhood, and the builders' untrained abilities to execute the fashionable ornamentation. Several of the freestanding structures in East Towson are twin dwellings, surreptitiously providing multiple-family housing on narrow rectangular building lots typically occupied by single-family houses. Thus, East Towson provided lower cost housing in a more suburban neighborhood, rather than the urban setting their economic status typically perpetuated.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2564

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic East Towson African American Survey District

other

2. Location

street and number not for publication

city, town	Towson	vicinity
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county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	multiple ownership
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street and number	telephone	Unavailable
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city, town state zip code

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse tax map and parcel: tax map 70

city, town	Towson	liber	folio
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5. Primary Location of Additional Data

☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
☐ Other

6. Classification

[illegible]

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-2564

Condition

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> altered |

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Architecturally, East Towson illustrates distinctive vernacular characteristics of a particular architectural style and period, specifically the Queen Anne and Gothic Revival styles of the late 19th century and the Craftsman style of the early 20th century. East Towson as a whole is representative of an important phase of architectural development in Baltimore County, illustrating the dilution of popular architectural styles to more efficiently meet the needs of the neighborhood, and the builders' untrained abilities to execute the fashionable ornamentation. Several of the freestanding structures in East Towson are twin dwellings, surreptitiously providing multiple-family housing on narrow rectangular building lots typically occupied by single-family houses. Thus, East Towson provided lower cost housing in a more suburban neighborhood, rather than the urban setting their economic status typically perpetuated.

A total of 76 properties are extant in East Towson with 70 of these originally built as dwellings. The materials and technologies used in the construction of the buildings in East Towson are not overwhelmingly original. Extant elements include the stucco-clad masonry and exposed stone foundations, decorative wood shingle cladding and weatherboard siding, molded surrounds, gable roofs with overhanging eaves and boxed cornices, exposed rafters, wrap-around and inset porches with turned columns and brackets, and steeply pitched gabled pediments with molded entablatures. The use of log construction has been confined to a single example, although a number of log structures from the mid-19th century were noted to have existed. Modern materials have been introduced, including the replacement of wood sash with metal sash and the re-cladding of exterior walls with asbestos shingles, asphalt siding, aluminum siding, and vinyl siding. These modern materials, many viewed as reversible, largely obscure or replace the historic materials that originally ornamented the exterior of the buildings.

Twin dwellings and duplexes are popular forms throughout East Towson. The form of a duplex dwelling in East Towson is primarily a two bay wide dwelling rising two stories high featuring a front-gable roof. Duplexes are not easily discernable from single-family dwellings because of their similar forms and the single entrance on the facade. The dwellings, generally providing housing for a single family, are typically large scale with rectangular or square plans. A number of modest houses are extant, including bungalows and at least one shotgun house. However, much of the early construction techniques and designs practiced in the mid-19th century have been largely obscured from view by modern materials.

Twin dwellings are easily discernable due to their double entry facades. Five examples of twin dwellings are located in East Towson at 318-320 Lennox Avenue (BA-1012), 407-409 Jefferson Avenue (BA-1039), 404-406 East Pennsylvania Avenue (BA-1049), 432 East Pennsylvania Avenue (BA-1081), and 315 a&b Lennox Avenue (BA-2631). The dwelling on Jefferson Avenue is the earliest example of a twin dwelling in East Towson, constructed during the late 19th century. This form features a four bay façade with a door at each end. It is capped with a side-gable roof and each section shares a central-interior chimney. The early 20th century twin dwelling on East Pennsylvania is similar in that it also has side-gable roof and features a four-bay-wide façade. This dwelling is two-and-a-half stories in height and has two interior chimneys in the rear of the dwelling. A later example of a twin dwelling is located at 432 East Pennsylvania Avenue. This house stands two-and-a-half stories high and is four bays wide on the first story and two bays wide on the second story. Both feature a front gable dormer and paired windows and the dwelling is capped with a side-gable roof.

Styles represented throughout East Towson include Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Craftsman, and Art Deco. Representative examples of the Gothic Revival are located at 413 Jefferson Avenue (BA-1001), 310 Lennox Avenue (BA-1013), 312 Lennox Avenue (BA-1014), and 320 East Pennsylvania (BA-1048). Characteristics typical of Gothic Revival dwellings in East Towson include a two-and-a-half-story height, and a side-gable roof with a steeply pitched center cross gable. The dwelling at 411 Pennsylvania Avenue (BA-1055) features a lancet window in the center cross gable.

A selection of Queen Anne style dwellings in East Towson include 315 Lennox Avenue (BA-1008), 317 Lennox Avenue (BA-1009), 406 Virginia Avenue (BA-1032), 412 Fairmont Avenue (BA-1036), 300 East Pennsylvania Avenue (BA-1043), 423 East

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Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2564

Name East Towson African American Survey District
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

Pennsylvania Avenue (BA-1058), and 410 Railroad Avenue (BA-1068). Many of the dwellings in East Towson lack any stylistic characteristics features but rather lean the form as the determining factor in deciding a style. A total of 35 dwellings in East Towson feature front gable roofs with the majority of these falling under the Queen Anne style. A few of these dwellings use ornament as well as a front gable roof that link it to the Queen Anne style. For example, 406 Virginia Avenue is two-and-a-half stories high, and exhibits a front-gable roof with a center cross gable on the side elevation. The gables are clad with variegated wood shingles and contain compass-head 2/2 windows. A modest version of this dwelling is at 423 East Pennsylvania Avenue. This dwelling has a front gable roof, rises two stories, and measures three bays deep. It does not include any center cross gables on the side elevation and has been reclad with vinyl siding. Three Queen Anne-style dwellings within East Towson do not share the ubiquitous front-gable-roof form. The house at 315 Lennox Avenue features an T-shaped footprint with a wrap-around porch covering the first story. It has a canted corner bay on the first story and the porch posts have lace-like brackets. The dwelling at 412 Fairmont Avenue rises two-and-a-half stories and is capped with a side-gable roof. Queen Anne-style characteristics include a two story canted projecting bay on the façade and corner brackets with turned posts on the porch. The dwelling at 300 East Pennsylvania Avenue exhibits a T-shaped footprint, and the gables are clad with variegated wood shingles that contain compass-head 2/2 windows.

A small collection of Colonial Revival-style dwellings are extant in East Towson. The dwelling at 318 East Pennsylvania Avenue (BA-1078) is two-and-a-half stories high and measures two bays wide. It is capped with a side-gable roof and a gable wall dormer is centered on the façade. The one-and-a-half story Cape Cod dwelling at 414 Fairmont Avenue (BA-2979) is three bays wide and includes features such as a center entrance, gable dormers, and a center-interior chimney.

The Carver School at 300 Lennox Avenue (BA-1075) is the only Art Deco-style building in East Towson. Constructed in 1939, this concrete building is covered with stucco and is two-stories high with an H-shaped footprint. Characteristics typical of Art Deco buildings include smooth wall surfaces (typically stucco), geometric motifs such as zigzags and chevrons, and vertical emphasis above the roof line. The Carver School features a stucco wall surface and a flat roof with a stepped parapet.

Three examples of the Craftsman style are extant in East Towson, located at 318-320 Lennox Avenue (BA-1012), 441a East Pennsylvania Avenue (BA-1063), and 345 Eudowood Lane (BA-2978). The most stylized Craftsman-style dwelling in East Towson is the one on East Pennsylvania Avenue. This dwelling rises one-and-a-half stories in height and is capped with a hipped roof. It features an inset porch supported with battered posts on brick piers. The hipped-roof dormer on the façade contains three lattice casement windows. The twin dwelling at 318-320 Lennox Avenue is capped with a side-gable roof that covers an inset porch. Two shallow shed-roof dormers are on the façade. The dwelling at 345 Eudowood Lane is one story high and is capped with a side-gable roof that covers the inset porch. The porch is supported with battered wood posts.

Within the community there is a church, parsonage, social hall, school, store, and a warehouse. The first four of these buildings are clustered near one another on Jefferson Avenue. The church and parsonage both reflect the Gothic Revival style. The previously mentioned school exhibits Art Deco characteristics. The store is within a modest example of a Queen Anne-style dwelling and is located at the corner of Pennsylvania and Fairmont Avenues. The warehouse is a vernacular building clad with wood shingles and is located at the southeastern edge of the neighborhood on Eudowood Lane.

The high number of houses within East Towson have been demolished. The late-20th-century development of Towson has infringed upon the edges of East Towson, causing a loss of building stock. Moreover, within the interior of the neighborhood, several historic buildings have been demolished. The location of the buildings is clearly marked by vacant lots that appear throughout East Towson.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2564

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates 1869-1940s

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates 1869-1940s

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

East Towson is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, specifically the pre-Civil War development of an African-American neighborhood in a predominately white community. The history of this property dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendents of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19th century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20th century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures. Many of the current homeowners and tenants living in the neighborhood are descendents of the first African-American residents.

East Towson was deliberately established in this location, north of Baltimore City, because of its close proximity to Hampton. This late-18th-century dwelling, located to the north/northwest of East Towson, was home to Charles Ridgely and his wife, Rebecca Dorsey. The neighborhood now known as East Towson was a small portion of the original 1,500-acre tract of Hampton. Upon their 28th birthday, manumitted slaves, granted freedom after the death of Ridgely in 1830, chose to establish their residential neighborhood within close proximity to their former home. Further, the adjacent community of Towson afforded the residents of East Towson with a variety of economic opportunities.

Rather than extend the urban setting being established within Towson-proper, East Towson was created as a separate enclave that maintained an individual sense of community, despite its economic and governmental dependence on that neighboring town. This was accomplished through the siting of buildings on large lots that allowed for spacious yards and outbuildings. The building lots laid out first in the 1850s and those created after the turn of the 20th century reflect suburban design, with the intentional presentation of freestanding housing lots. Like many suburban communities in Baltimore County, the original roads transversing East Towson are a continuation of existing transportation routes.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows the community of East Towson was predominantly African-American, however, there were a few white residents listed. Approximately ninety percent of the residents listed in the census were from Maryland. Other places of origin include Virginia, Jamaica, District of Columbia, and Portugal. The majority of the residents in East Towson did not own their property but rather rented. Rental values ranged from eight to twenty dollars. This is comparatively cheaper than other African-American enclaves in Baltimore County, such as Haltethorpe, Church Lane, and Schwartz Avenue.

A few of the residents listed in the 1930 census include George Scott, Thomas Ballard, George Tyler, James Morris, Florence

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Name East Towson African American Survey District

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Number 8 Page 1

Mack, Fannie Rose, Robert Walker, John Pinkney, and Jerome Dolman. Several women were listed as heads of households. Many of the households listed anywhere from four to nine people residing in the house. Male occupations listed in the census include school bus driver, hospital laborer, building laborer, chauffeur, U.S. Coast Guard laborer, stenographer, mail carrier, and machine factory laborer. Female occupations included cook, mid-wife, maid, and laundress.

East Towson has maintained its original suburban plan. It is cohesively bounded by Virginia Avenue to the west and Towsontown Boulevard on the south, with resources roughly fronting both sides Railroad Avenue on the east and Pennsylvania Avenue on the north. However, the setting of the property has been compromised by the construction of modern buildings in response to the expansion of Towson. This modern construction wraps around the property on all four sides, marked by four-lane transportation corridors. The modern buildings, consisting of many high-rise structures, are not obscured from view from within East Towson, rather they infringe on its edges and distract from the suburban neighborhood's one- and two-story historic improvements.

Further, modern construction has occurred within the confines of the neighborhood, particularly along the edges where development from adjacent communities has expanded. This is noted along Pennsylvania Avenue and in the northeastern and southeast corners of East Towson. Late-19th- and early-20th-century housing once improved nearly all the narrow rectangular lots of East Towson. However, a number of the dwellings along the borders of the neighborhood have been razed and replaced by late-20th century construction. Few historic structures remain at the western end of the community as a result of the expanding commercial and governmental activities of Towson, which is the county seat. Large-scale housing with commercial space on the first floor and office buildings have been constructed on the now-joined building lots that were created as part of East Towson, thereby blurring the edges of the neighborhood with that of Towson-proper. Furthermore, many of the historic structures in this section of East Towson have been lost in favor of parking lots.

Many of the historic buildings on the north side of Pennsylvania Avenue have been lost, and non-consistent housing and commercial structures constructed. A modern housing development was established at the eastern end of this road. This turn-of-the-21st-century development was oriented away from the established neighborhood of East Towson, with principal access from Joppa Road to the north. Moreover, the paired dwellings face east/west onto a newly created road with sidewalks and driveways that further promote the concentrated nature of this modern enclave. This modern development required the razing of approximately five buildings and alteration to East Towson's early-20th-century suburban plan by the laying of a new road. A similar housing development was constructed in the southeastern corner of East Towson, with access from historic Eudowood Lane and Towsontown Road. The multiple-family housing units face the newly created Hendrickson Lane, which is laid at an angle rather than the straight configuration of the historic roads. The construction of this housing complex required the demolition of six historic buildings that contributed to the context of East Towson. Additionally, a modern church was constructed nearby on Eudowood Lane, resulting in the loss of five additional historic buildings.

The greatest impact to the integrity of the setting in East Towson is the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company transformer station of the west side of Railroad Avenue, between the historic railroad bed and Pennsylvania Avenue. This massive complex, surrounded by high metal fencing, is clearly visible from Railroad Avenue, Eudowood Lane, Fairmont Avenue, and Pennsylvania Avenue. The site was historically associated with the gas and electric company, but has since grown to occupy at least seven additional building lots along Railroad Avenue.

None of the resources in the district appear to be the work of trained architects, landscape architects, or artisans, although documentation has not yet been located to document otherwise. Rather, the secondary research that has been gathered indicates that many of the buildings were designed and constructed by the first residents, none of whom had training in this field. However, the workmanship of these early buildings suggest the first residents developed the necessary skills to design and construct their homes. During the second major period of development, primarily between 1915 and 1927, readily available, mass-produced

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ornamentation and fashionable building forms and styles were utilized throughout East Towson.

OWNERSHIP OF PROMINENT BUILDINGS AS OF NOVEMBER 2001

St. James African Union First Colored Methodist Protestant Church-- tax id # 920660220

415 Jefferson Avenue	Conference of AUMP Church, Inc.	Baltimore County Courthouse
tax map 70A/464	1203 Newport Gap Pike	Liber 9740 Folio 487
	Wilmington, DE 19804	

Towsontown Lodge -- id # 921450000

411 Jefferson Avenue	Stanley Stockwell	Baltimore County Courthouse
tax map 70A/449	1744 Aberdeen Road	Liber 8970 Folio 447
	Baltimore, MD 21234	

Carver High School/East Towson Carver Community Center--tax id # 902571443

300 Lennox Avenue	Baltimore County	Baltimore County Courthouse
tax map 70A/491	Baltimore, MD 21204	Liber 6796 Folio 589

Mount Calvary African Methodist Episcopal Church--tax id # 923501100

133 Chesapeake Avenue	Mount Calvary AME Church, Inc.	Baltimore County Courthouse
tax map 70A/250	300 Eudowood Lane	Liber 14929 Folio 186

Parsonage--tax id # 920660220

413 Jefferson Avenue	Conference of AUMP Church	Baltimore County Courthouse
tax map 70A/464	1203 Newport Gap Pike	Liber 9740 Folio 487
	Wilmington, DE 19804	

Maryland Etching Company--tax id # 923350642

398 Eudowood Lane	Technographics of Maryland, Inc.	Baltimore County Courthouse
tax map 70/891	P.O. Box 6737	Liber 9079 Folio 619
	Baltimore, MD	

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-2564

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 47.945 acres

Acreage of historical setting Unknown

Quadrangle name Towson

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The East Towson survey district is bounded by Pennsylvania Avenue, Fairmont Avenue, Eudowood Lane, Railroad Avenue, and Jefferson Avenue. The properties in East Towson have been historically associated with tax map 70 and 70a since their construction.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title K. Baynard, Architectural Historian

organization E.H.T. Traceries

date 10/20/02

street and number 1121 Fifth Street, NW

telephone 202/393-1199

city or town Washington

state DC zip code 20001

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2564

Name East Towson African American Survey District

Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

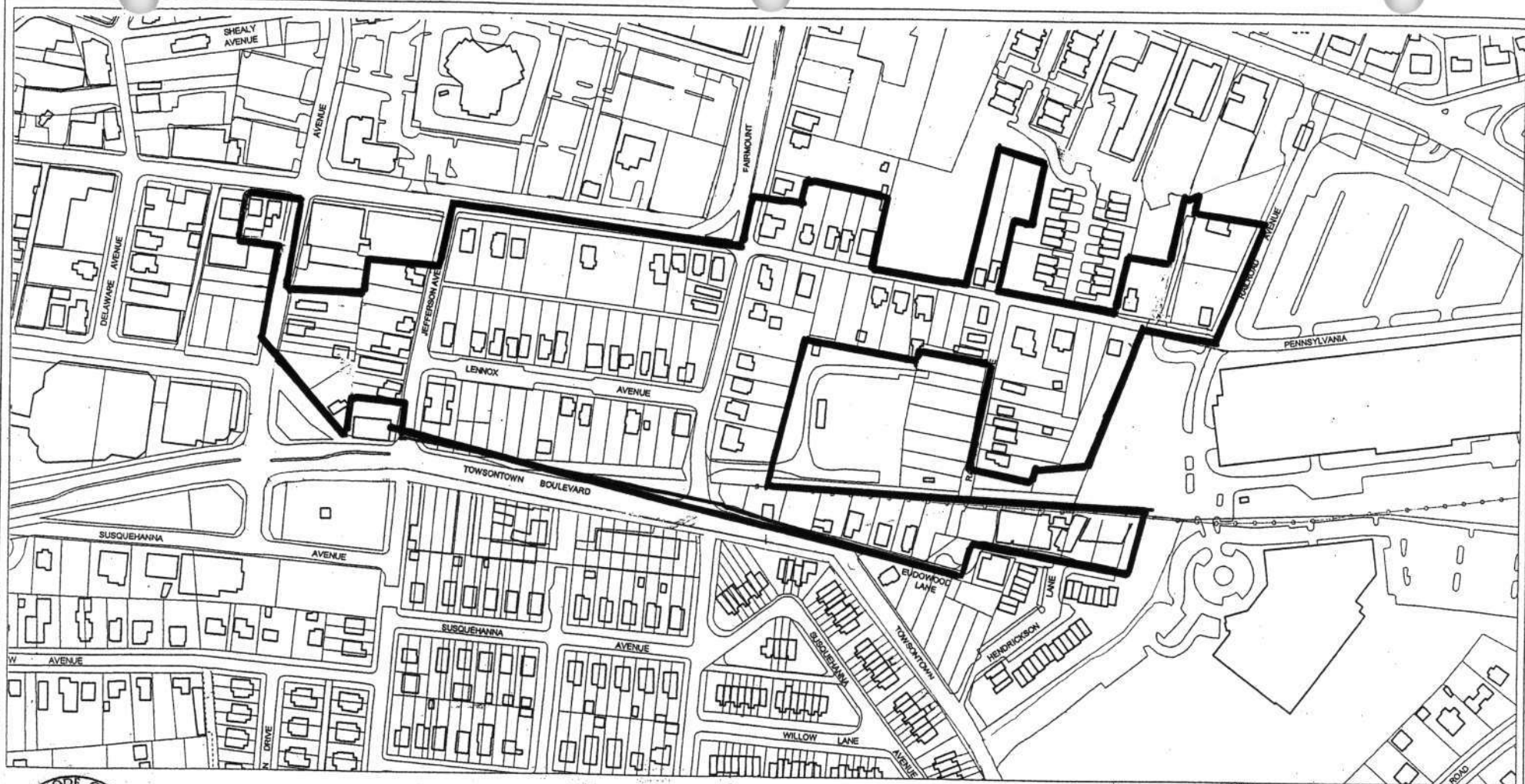
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. A History of Baltimore County. Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys. Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850

East Towson: Planimetric Data



Prepared by:
Baltimore County Office of Planning
401 Bosley Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204
June, 2001



Scale
1 inch = 200 feet
1:2400
100 0 100 200 Feet

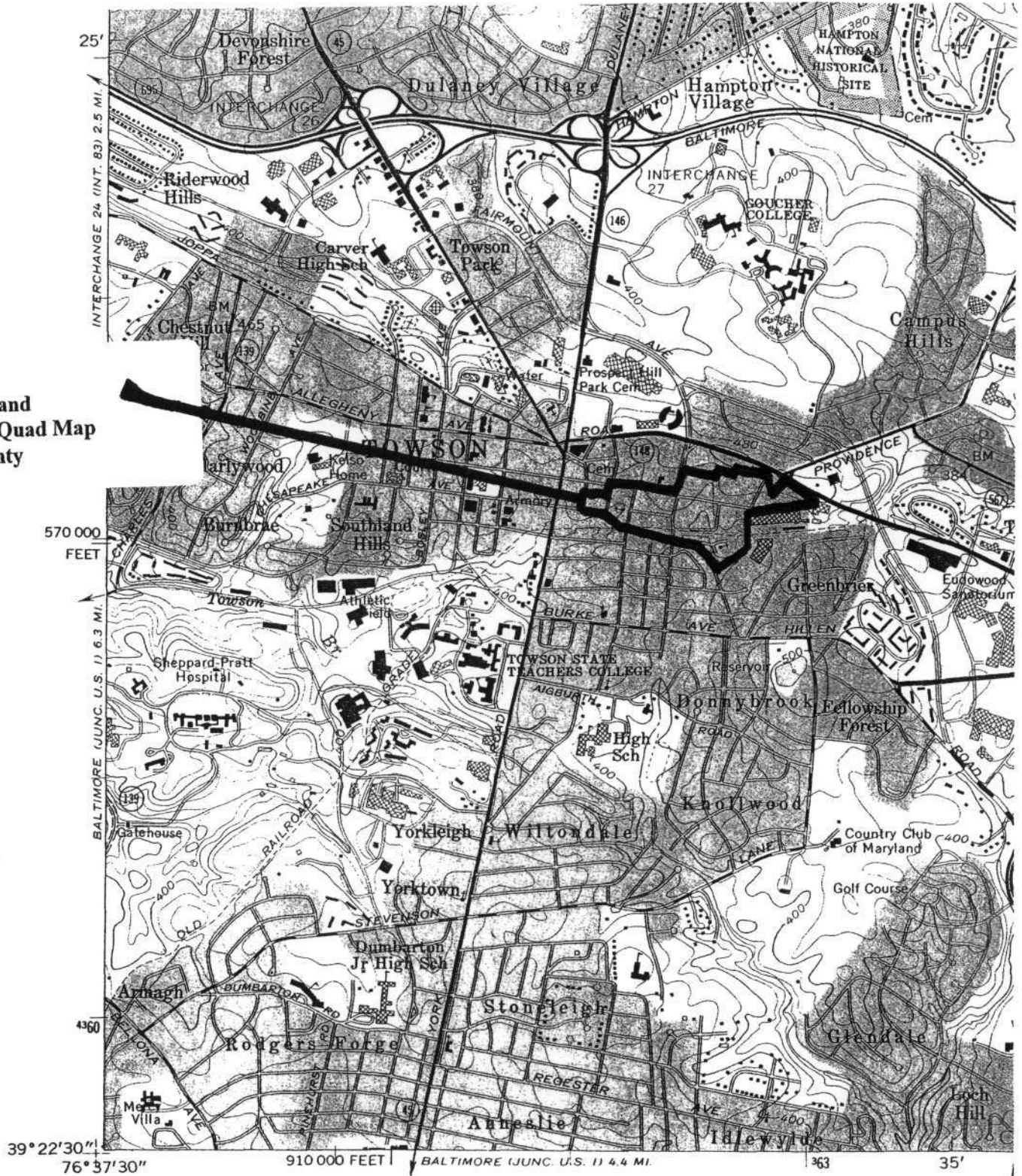
Legend

- Study Area Boundary
- Paved Roads
- Unpaved Roads
- Paved Parking / Driveways
- Hydrographic Features
- Buildings
- Vegetation

Data Sources:
Planimetric Data: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)
Parcel Boundaries: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)
Study Area: Baltimore County Office of Planning (1:2400)
Coordinate System:
Maryland State Plane: NAD83/91 Horizontal Datum
Elevations in Feet: NAVD88 Vertical Datum
Date of Data Capture: March 1996
Scale of Data Capture: 1" = 100'

BA-2564
EAST TOWSON AFRICAN
AMERICAN SURVEY DISTRICT
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

BA-2564
East Towson
Towson, Maryland
Towson USGS Quad Map
Baltimore County



(BALTIMORE WEST)
 5662' SW

Mapped by the Army Map Service
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and Maryland
 Bureau of Control Surveys and Maps

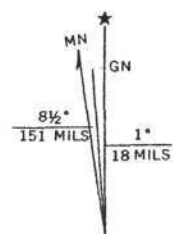
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
 taken 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944
 Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1957

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
 1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 18, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only
 landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from
 aerial photographs taken 1966 and 1974. This information not
 field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



BA-2564

EAST TOWSON AFRICAN AMERICAN
SURVEY DISTRICT

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

11/2002

MD SHPO

407-423 Jefferson Avenue, view looking NORTH

1 of 6



BA-2564

EAST TOWSON AFRILAN AMERILAN
SURVEY DISTRICT

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

11/2002

MD SHPD

301-315 LENNOX Avenue, view looking Northeast

2 of 6



BA 2564

EAST TOWSON AFRICAN AMERICAN SURVEY DISTRICT
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

11/2002

MD SHPD

500 FAIRMONT AVENUE, 405-407 EAST PENNSYLVANIA
AVENUE, VIEW LOOKING EAST

3 of 6



BA 2564

EAST TOWSON AFRICAN AMERICAN
SURVEY DISTRICT

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

11/2002

MD SHPO

411 FAIRMONT AVENUE, 322-324 EAST PENNSYLVANIA
AVENUE, view looking southwest

4 of 6



BA-2564

EAST TOWSON AFRICAN AMERICAN
SURVEY DISTRICT

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
TRAILERIES

11/2002
MD SHPO

417-419 RAILROAD AVENUE, VIEW LOOKING Southwest



BA-2564

EAST TOWSON AFRICAN AMERICAN
SURVEY DISTRICT

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

11/2002

MD SHPO

410-404 RAILROAD AVENUE, VIEW LOOKING EAST

6 of 6

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DRAFTSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

East Towson

AND/OR COMMON

East Towson Historic District

(SURVEY DISTRICT)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Virginia, Chesapeake, Pennsylvania

and Railroad Avenues

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

Third

STATE

Maryland

CODE

024

COUNTY

Baltimore

CODE

005

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☒ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☒ COMMERCIAL☒ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☒ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Multiple, public and private owners (see continuation sheets)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Towson,

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

BA-2564

DRAFT

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

East Towson is a neighborhood lying one block downhill and to the east of the Baltimore County Courthouse and the main commercial area of Towson. The land slopes gently from west to east. The district is bounded by the western block of Virginia Avenue on the west, Chesapeake Avenue on the south, Pennsylvania Avenue on the north and Railroad Avenue on the east. The area was settled between the 1850s and the 1920s by blacks who were freed slaves or their descendants.

The neighborhood is fairly thoroughly developed with a few duplexes scattered among the predominantly single-family homes. A few lots were never developed and several houses have been torn down, so that some open spaces are now interspersed with the houses.

Generous lot sizes provide a relaxed setting for the houses in East Towson. Each house benefits from at least a small front yard and usually a deep back yard, often with side yards as well. Some houses are supplemented by a garage. The yards are well-tended, featuring attractive groupings of perennials and shrubs. A picket fence or neat hedge encloses each yard, creating a scenic border to the street. Some blocks are edged with sidewalks. The numerous trees lend a cool shady air to the neighborhood.

The majority of houses in East Towson are owner-occupied and are maintained in excellent condition. The ones which are rented show more care by the tenant than by the landlord. Most alterations to the buildings appear in the form of additions to the rear, which do not detract from the original appearance of the houses.

Two log houses remain in East Towson, #423 Jefferson Avenue (BA-1042) and the rear section of #437 Pennsylvania Avenue (BA-1061). The other houses are of frame construction, usually built over a stone cellar. All the houses in East Towson are two stories in height with the exceptions of #435 Pennsylvania Avenue (BA-1060), a "shotgun shack" usually seen further south, and 402 1/2 Railroad Avenue (Ba-1071). Six compatible, mid-twentieth century, one-story houses also appear.

Some houses retain their original wood siding, while others have been covered with asphalt or asbestos shingles, or aluminum siding. Since the houses and their settings remain intact and these later sheathing materials are subdued in color, the integrity of the houses is not violated and the appearance of the community remains harmonious.

Two basic types of facade face the street: the wide, usually cross-gabled facade of a house with center hall plan, or the narrow gable end of a house running two or three rooms deep into the lot. Almost every house is shaded by a front porch, whether a simple shed supported by plain square posts, or a stylish, semi-enclosed porch sporting turned posts and carved brackets.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

East Towson Historic District
Baltimore County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 1

OWNER OF PROPERTY (Continued)

Chesapeake Avenue

108	Gary B. Gill
109	
111	James B. Wheatley
113	917 Crommwell Bridge Road
115	Towson, Maryland 21204
112	Milton V. Tripett
114	745 Leafdaye Terrace
	Baltimore, Maryland
116-118	James/Bertha Wheatley
	917 Cromwell Bridge Road
	Towson, Maryland 21204
120	George Banks
110	Milton V. Tripett
133	Robert Williams

Eudowood Lane

345	George T. Bess
	3506 Liberty Heights Avenue
	Baltimore, Maryland 21228
347	George Banks
349	James B. Wheatley
	917 Crommwell Bridge Road
	Towson, Maryland 21204
353	James B. Wheatly, Jr. etal
	908 Crommwell Bridge Road
	Towson, Maryland 21204
355-57	James Wheatley, Jr.
341	Mt. Calvary Church of Baltimore County
	Arron J. Stewart
	402 Fairmount Avenue
	Towson, Maryland 21204
365-67	James B. Wheatley
	917 Crommwell Bridge Road, Towson, Maryland, 21204

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

East Towson Historic District
Baltimore County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 2

OWNER OF PROPERTY (Continued)

Eudowood Lane

351 Maryland Etching Company

Fairmount Avenue

402 Aaron J. Stewart/Lawrence

404 Mollie Richardson

406 Walter A. Johnson/Regina M.

408 Richard J. Hewlett/Regina H.

409 Bessie J. Chatman

411 Hilda Albert Cook

412 Zelma V. Holley

414 Calvin J. Davenport/Dorothy

500 Agnes M. Herrmann
231 Burke Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204

Hillen Road

201+ Elijah Gwynn
lot

325 Joseph L.E./Donna G. Mann

327 George M. Pratt
327 Hillen Road
Towson, Maryland 21204

331 Edward B. Mack
333 325 Lennox Avenue
337 Towson, Maryland 21204

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3.

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East Towson Historic District
Baltimore County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 3

OWNER OF PROPERTY (Continued)

Hillen Road

337	Samuel and Rebecca Arron 416 Charles Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202
343	George and Amy Davis
365	Rodger/Margaret Smith 4402 Craddock Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21212
367	James Wheatly 917 Crommwell Bridge Road Towson, Maryland 21204
369-71	James B. Wheatley 917 Crommwell Bridge Road Towson, Maryland 21204
373-75	James B. Wheatley, Jr. 809 Crommwell Bridge Road Towson, Maryland 21204
377	Edwin Beary
379	Ralph C. Norris 3900 W. Belvedere Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21218
323	Baltimore County
Jefferson Avenue	
401	Jefferson Avenue Joint Venture 306 W. Chesapeake Avenue
403	Towson, Maryland 21204
405+ lot	Charles Tomes
407	Charlie Tomes/Ella Burke

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4.

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East Towson Historic District
Baltimore County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 4

OWNER OF PROPERTY (Continued)

409	James E. Tomes
411	United Sons of Towson C/O George Purvinance 25 E. Susquehana Avenue Towson, Maryland 21204
413-15	Trustees of the St. James Church C/O Rev. Joseph McManus
417	William R. Walker 16720 Hereford Road Monkton, Maryland 21111
419-21	Walter and Sarah Mack
423	William T. Parker/Mary E. Box 54, Route 2 Phoenix, Maryland 21131
Lennox Avenue	
300	Balto. Co. Board of Education Carver Building Aigbith Road Towson, Maryland 21204
301	Otis and Mildred Taylor Box 36, Route 1 Phoenix, Maryland 21131
303	Henrietta Foote 426 North Street Seaford, Delaware 19913
305	Henrietta Foot etal
307	Benjamin W./Martha Davage 16720 Hereford Road Monkton, Maryland 21111

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #5.

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East Towson Historic District
Baltimore County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 5

OWNER OF PROPERTY (Continued)

Lennox Avenue

309	Phebia McNair Taylor
310	William R./Corrin Harvey 17321 Big Falls Road Monkton, Maryland 21111
311	Amos Fields
312	Bernice Cannon/Joan Mason
313	Charles A.E./Edith E. Smith
314	Maude P. Hopkins
315	Clarence P.E. Cather Myers
315B	Thomas Purvines
316	Sara J. Green 1917 Ruxton Avenue Baltimore, Maryland
317	Sammuel C. Williams
318-20	Baltimore County
319	James P. Dyett
321	Alice Mack Johnson
323	Emory Scott/Mary Terrell C/O Deroy Haile, Jr. 13 W. Chesapeake Avenue Towson, Maryland 21204
325	Edward Mack
312-1/2	William E. Johnson

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #6.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

East Towson Historic District
Baltimore County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 6

OWNER OF PROPERTY (Continued)

E. Pennsylvania Avenue

300	William E. Bishop
304	Earnest J.W. Collins
306	Rodger D. Smith
308	Clara Smith
312	Lucretia B. Fisher
318	Marshall Bell, Jr.
320	Francis Johnson
322	Baltimore County
324	William R. Ross/ wife
Lot	Calvin J. Davenport/Dorothy
404-6	Alice H. Johnson 321 Lennox Avenue
405	Agnes Herrman 321 E. Burke Avenue Towson, Maryland 21204
407	Agnes Herrman
409	Agnes Herrman
411	Pride of Towson Elks Lodge #842
Lot	Baltimore Gas & Electric Co.
412	Wallace Hall and wife
413	C.W. Management
414	Calvin J. Davenport

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #7.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

East Towson Historic District
Baltimore County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 7

OWNER OF PROPERTY (Continued)

*Vacant

416 Louis D. Gross
309 Pennsylvania Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204

418-20 Kermit C. Norris

Lot Reginald N. Wright
4037 Bille Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland

421 Elizabeth and Aurther Smith

423 Mamie Bradford

425 Laura C. Hook

*429 Sinetta P. Chaney

431-33 Daniel W. Frazier

422 Reginald N. Wright

435 Daniel Frazier

Lot Harriet W. Buchanan

436 Howard E. Powell

437 Jacob H. Wilson

438-40 Howard E. Powell

441 Kathleen Wilson

441A Benjamin A. Wilson

Lot Regina Wilson
373 Hillen Road
Towson, Maryland 21204

430 Edward Crump

432 Mrs. Birdie Sides

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #8.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

East Towson Historic District
Baltimore County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER

4

PAGE

8

OWNER OF PROPERTY (Continued)

Railroad Avenue

400	Baltimore Gas & Electric Co. Baltimore, Maryland 21202
401	Seaborn B. Turner 4737 Wrenwood Avenue Towson, Maryland 21204
401 1/2	Baltimore Gas & Electric Co. Baltimore, Maryland 21202
402	Anna Ruth Davis
402 1/2	John E. Etzal 89 Sarbit Court Towson, Maryland 21204
403	Baltimore Gas and Electric Co.
404	Leroy Y. Haile 13 W. Chesapeake Avenue Towson, Maryland 21204
405	Baltimore Gas & Electric Co. Baltimore, Maryland 21202
406	Ruby Kenton
407	Baltimore Gas & Electric Co.
408	Herbert H. Rosen 1107 York Road Cockeysville, Maryland 21030
409	Baltimore Gas & Electric Co.
410	Herbert H. Rosen
414	Louis A. Johnson
417	Hattie G. Norris

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #9.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

East Towson Historic District
Baltimore County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 9

OWNER OF PROPERTY (Continued)

Railroad Avenue

419 Clyde D. Young

411

413

415 Baltimore Gas & Electric Co.

Virginia Avenue

400 Baltimore County

402 Baltimore County

404 Eugene A. Jones
406 Virginia Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204

405 William C. Roche

407 no address

406 Eugene A. Jones

408 Gladys D. Williams

409 Goldus Hinton

410 Eugene A. Jones/Laura L.
406 Virginia Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204

411 William Sadler/Sadie J.

412 James P. Wheatley
917 Crommwell Bridge Road
Towson, Maryland 21204

420

414

424

James P. Wheatley
917 Crommwell Bridge Road
Towson, Maryland 21204

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East Towson Historic District
Baltimore County,

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 10

DESCRIPTION (continued)

These two basic floor plans, the narrow side-hall and the wide center-hall type, were built simultaneously throughout the history of East Towson. The difference in types must reflect the financial status of the owner rather than a change in style. The detailing found in these houses ranges from mid-nineteenth century holdovers (423 Jefferson Ave: BA-1042), to late Victorian styling (405 Pennsylvania Avenue: BA-1021 and 308 Pennsylvania Avenue: BA-1046), to a cross between late Queen Anne eclecticism and early Colonial Revival (406 Fairmount Avenue: BA-1017 and 314 Lennox Avenue: BA-1028).

The appearance of this area has changed little since the last major area, Fairmount and Lennox Avenues, was developed circa 1906-1915. The earliest houses, from the mid-nineteenth century, appear in the extreme eastern and western sections of the district. A few houses which appear on an 1877 map of Towson are extant, most notably #423 Jefferson Avenue (BA-1042). Five per cent of the present houses in East Towson are from this period. The Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York Railroad ran through Towson in the mid-1800's crossing Chesapeake Avenue at Jefferson, and passing by the southern foot of Railroad Avenue.

By 1898 all streets except Fairmount and Lennox were lightly developed. The houses from this period represent 25% of the extant houses in East Towson. In 1881 several institutions which still exist were built, including the Towsontown Lodge, #411 Jefferson (BA-1003), and the St. James AUMP Church and parsonage, #415 Pennsylvania (BA-1000) and #413 Pennsylvania Avenue (BA-1001), respectively. Several buildings of the Beneficial Society at the foot of Eudowood Lane appear on the 1898 map.

The greatest spurt of development occurred between 1898 and 1915, when 45% of the present houses were built. Both Lennox and Fairmount Avenues were developed and many houses were built in other parts of the district. Twenty percent more of the houses were built between 1915 and 1927, bringing the total percentage of pre-1927 structures in the district to 95%.

Few commercial structures are located in the East Towson neighborhood. The Towson Auto Body Garage, #110 Chesapeake, is only barely visible from the street. The Maryland Etching Company (BA-1076) is housed in a large building constructed in 1946 at the eastern end of Eudowood Lane. Despite the size of the building, it does not detract from the neighborhood, thanks to its peripheral location and attractive form. The single

See Continuation Sheet #11

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East Towson Historic District
Baltimore County,

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 11

DESCRIPTION (continued)

major intrusion in the district is the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company transformer station on the western side of Railroad Avenue.

Local religious, social and educational institutions include the aforementioned St. James AUMP Church and the Towsontown Lodge. Another church, the Mt. Calvary A.M.E., was built recently at the end of Eudowood Lane. The Pride of Towson Lodge is located at #411 Pennsylvania Avenue (BA-1055). The Baltimore County Board of Education has offices in the 1908 Carver School at Jefferson and Lennox Avenues (BA-1075). Adjoining the old school, the Carver Playground is a small park about 1/4 city block in size. It provides attractive recreational space for the neighborhood.

East Towson is bounded on the east by light manufacturing, on the north by residential and commercial development, on the west by the commercial York Road area, and on the south by a mid-twentieth century residential community.

The following are six typical houses in East Towson:

413 Jefferson Avenue -AUMP Parsonage (BA-100) - 1881 and 1906

The front cross-gabled section of this two-story frame house is an addition to a four-room house. The steep cross-gable contains a triangular window. Now attached to the St. James AUMP Church, the parsonage was once separated by an alley.

415 Jefferson Avenue - St. James AUMP Church (BA-1000) - 1881 and 1906

This frame church was first built in 1881 and was raised to two stories in 1906. The pulpit, chancel and choir loft on the second floor are from the first building.

423 Jefferson Avenue - (BA-1042) - 3rd quarter 19th century

This two-story log house is one of the oldest buildings in the East Towson neighborhood. The two front rooms each contain a fireplace backing on the central wall. The stair also runs along this wall. A kitchen to the rear has a fireplace along its west wall. All the fireplace mantels are composed of moldings dating from the third quarter of the 19th century.

See Continuation Sheet #12

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East Towson Historic District
Baltimore County,

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 12

DESCRIPTION (continued)

314 Lennox Avenue - (BA-1028) - circa 1905 - 1915

This unusual and stylish frame house consists of north-south and east-west gambrel roofs which cross at the center of the building. Each side of the house appears as a gambrel end. The interior of the house retains elaborate original woodwork.

405 Pennsylvania Avenue - (BA-1021) - before 1898

This attractive frame house retains much of its original woodwork. The house is two stories high and consists of two rooms across the front with a stair along the center wall. Several additions follow to the rear. The main facade is distinguished by a porch and a cross gable.

312 Pennsylvania Avenue - (BA-1047) - before 1898

This fine house, is large and elaborately finished. (It is similar to its neighbor, 308 Pennsylvania BA-1046.) It consists of a side stair hall and parlor followed by two rooms, one large kitchen, a shed addition and a porch. A front porch wraps around the west side. The two-story frame house is two bays wide by five bays deep, with much elaborate exterior woodwork.

St. James African Union Methodist Protestant Church - (BA-1000)

This church was first built as a one-story building in 1881. In 1906 it was raised to its present 2 1/2 story form. The paneled choir loft and balustraded chancel were moved to the second floor with the sanctuary, and the first floor is now used for informal gatherings and service facilities.

The church is basically of frame construction on a foundation of local stone. A summer beam in the first floor ceiling is supported by flared, cast iron posts. The church's exterior is covered in grey asbestos shingles.

An exterior flight of steps rises to the main central doors, which lead to a landing slightly above the first floor level. From here a wide flight of stairs rises to the second floor. The double doors at the head of the stairs are said to be the front doors from the original church. Each door features a glass panel over a small wooden panel with cut-in corners.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

East Towson Historic District
Baltimore County,

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 13

DESCRIPTION (continued)

The second floor plan includes the pastor's office in the south-east corner and a small room with a winding stair to the balcony in the northeast corner. The balcony surmounts these rooms. In the sanctuary, three rows of pews are divided by two aisles. Behind the chancel is a raised pulpit and choir loft. An alcove projects from the center of the rear wall and contains a religious painting. The four windows along the north and south sides rise in Gothic arches with stained glass in the upper sections.

The main, or east, facade of the St. James AUMP Church presents a well-planned composition. To the south, a Gothic-arched window lights each floor. There is an identical window on the north of the second floor. Beneath this window an awning-sheltered door leads to the first floor. This door is painted red, with four black horizontal panels. The central double doors each contain six black panels surrounded by red rails and stiles. A four-pane transom tops the door. Resting directly on this framework are two windows surmounted by a wide, stained glass Gothic arch.

A cast-iron bell, with the inscription "Andrew Menedy, West Troy, N.Y. 1845" cast in the metal, once sat in a bell tower in the church's east-west running gable. It now rests on a concrete platform to the south of the church.

DRAFT

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
— PREHISTORIC	— ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	— LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	— RELIGION	
— 100-1499	— ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	— CONSERVATION	— LAW	— SCIENCE	
— 1500-1599	— AGRICULTURE	— ECONOMICS	— LITERATURE	— SCULPTURE	
— 1600-1699	— ARCHITECTURE	— EDUCATION	— MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
— 1700-1799	— ART	— ENGINEERING	— MUSIC	— THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	— COMMERCE	— EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	— PHILOSOPHY	— TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	— COMMUNICATIONS	— INDUSTRY	— POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Black History	
		— INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"Following the Civil War, many communities of freed black men appeared in Maryland. These . . . were often developed from farm land purchased by one or more of the freed men. In some instances, the land was given by whites. [Some of] these communities exist today as enclaves . . . beseiged by encroaching urbanization . . . urban renewal . . . has dealt the death blow to many of these communities in rural areas. Regulations for minimum lot sizes, sanitation and the like, have passed almost insurmountable barriers to the new generation of younger blacks who would prefer to remain on lands that have been held by their families for several generations. These families would usually be considered poor, but they have a great deal of pride in land ownership and family traditions. However, the outlook is bleak for the continuation of such communities."

The above, from a letter by Carroll Greene of the Maryland Commission on Afro-American History and and Culture, is a general description of the historic and present condition of black communities in Maryland such as East Towson. Although its origins are based in the antebellum period, East Towson's greatest growth occurred from circa 1870 to circa 1920. In the 1970s properties are still owned, in many cases, by descendants of the families who built them. The district remains as a largely unaltered example of the late 19th and early 20th century architecture and society found in such black communities. It is different from these others only relatively, being either less affluent or holding on longer than many of its counterparts.

Several factors contribute to the architectural cohesiveness of the East Towson Historic District. With few exceptions, all the houses were built within a 75-year period. Due to discrimination and lack of money, these buildings were constructed by a few local builders within the East Towson community. Again due to lack of money, almost all the houses show modified styling rather than many distinctive designs. The properties are, for the most part, set among trees in neat lots, and the houses themselves show few modern modifications. The rural, early 20th century nature of the community is distinctly defined by modern development on all sides, while there is almost no modern development within the district itself.

The East Towson community dates from September 14, 1853, when "Daniel Harris purchased an acre and a quarter of land from the Benjamin Payne

See Continuation Sheet #14

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet #16

BA- 2564

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 37 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Merry Stinson, architectural historian/Marcus Pollock, volunteer coordinator

ORGANIZATION

Towson Family YMCA

DATE

Spring/Summer 1977

STREET & NUMBER

600 W. Chesapeake Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Towson,

STATE

Maryland 21204

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ____

STATE ____

LOCAL ____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

DRAFT

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

East Towson Historic District

Baltimore County,

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 14

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

family for the sum of \$187.50." (Deed HMF 6/264). Located near the roadway now known as Hillen Road, this purchase is the first documented evidence of black landholdings in the Towson community.

The people who then moved into this area can trace their origins to Hampton, the plantation of Captain Charles Ridgely. Hampton was the center of a landholding which began with 1,500 acres and eventually grew to include 10,000 acres from Jones Falls to Timonium. In addition Ridgely's properties included another 5,000-acre tract in the area now known as Whitemarsh.

Captain Ridgely's will was to play an important part in the settlement of blacks in the Towson area. In a codicil to that document, dated 28 April 1828, he made provisions for the care and treatment of the slaves in his possession at his death, as well as for any future children these slaves might have. He decreed that slaves older than 45 would be passed on to certain designated heirs, who were charged to treat them with care and consideration. Male slaves between the ages of 28 and 45 were to be considered free upon Captain Ridgely's death. Male slaves under 28 were to be set free when they reached that age, and female slaves were to be given their freedom at age 25. All children of the former slaves were also to be freed upon reaching these ages.

Captain Ridgely's death in 1830 created a population of free blacks in the Towson area some thirty-five years before the end of the Civil War. Disinclined to travel because of lack of funds and the social restrictions of the times, this group of free blacks formed the nucleus of East Towson and two other black communities which were at one time a part of Towson. A number of East Towson residents can trace their lineage back to this group of slaves manumitted by Captain Ridgely.

There is little documented social history of Towson's involvement in the Civil War. The recollections of a former Towson resident indicate that at that time it was not considerably damaged. Miss Mary Stieber cites two instances of the effects of the war: the pillaging of stores and businesses on York Road and a physical skirmish with the Union Army, where shots were fired, but no one was hurt.

Following the Civil War, the Freedmen's Bureau (which had a 12-year life span from 1865-77) made some effort to assist Towson's freed blacks. The lumber for the erection of the first "colored" school in 1867 was donated by the Bureau. The passage of the 15th amendment

See Continuation Sheet #15

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

East Towson Historic District

Baltimore County,

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER

8

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

in 1870 gave black males in the border states the voting franchise. In an election for town commissioner, held in Towson April 4, 1870, thirty-seven black males voted out of a total of 187 voters casting ballots. This was the first election held in Maryland after passage of the amendment.

In the latter half of the 19th century, a number of socio-cultural groups and institutions were formed. These included: St. James African Union Methodist Protestant Church, founded on October 17, 1861 (this was the second church founded in Towson, the first being Epsom Chapel); a black relief society founded in 1883; and the organization of Odd Fellows and the sister group known as the House of Ruth. The founding and flourishing of these organizations attested to the growth in size of the black population of East Towson, and land records point to the ownership of property by additional black families.

Baltimore County and Towson retained much of a rural and village quality through the 1800s and most of the first half of the 20th century. In Towson, at that time, large tracts were owned by wealthy white families who maintained summer homes here and spent the winters in Baltimore. York Road was the center of the business community, and small in scale. After World War II, technology, government policy and racial feelings combined to create massive urban flight, which resulted in the development of Towson as a regional center. In this process the East Towson community has been encroached upon from all sides by modern construction.

In 1977 wide-spread interest in preservation has developed in East Towson. Little has been done in the way of restoration and preservation in the past because of vast uncertainty about the future of the community. Residents have indicated a desire and a willingness to upgrade their properties and to undertake other preservation activities, once they are assured that such efforts will not be in vain, and that they ultimately will not be displaced by plans for a major roadway.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

East Towson Historic District

Baltimore County,

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER

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East Towson
Historic District

TOWSON
Quad

39° 22' 30"
76° 37' 30"

9203776

Within HD

[Signature]

Survey No. BA- 2564

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

☐ Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
☐ Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
☒ Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
☐ Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

☐ Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
☐ Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
☐ Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
☐ Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
☐ Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
☐ Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
☐ Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
☐ Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
☐ Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
☐ Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
☒ Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
☐ Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
☐ Unknown Period (☐ prehistoric ☐ historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

☐ Subsistence
☐ Settlement
☐ Political
☐ Demographic
☐ Religion
☐ Technology
☐ Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

☐ Agriculture
☒ Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
☐ Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
☐ Government/Law
☐ Military
☐ Religion
☐ Social/Educational/Cultural
☐ Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Dwelling

Known Design Source: Unknown

76°37'30"

910,000 FT

Joins Map 19 BA-2564 76°35'00"

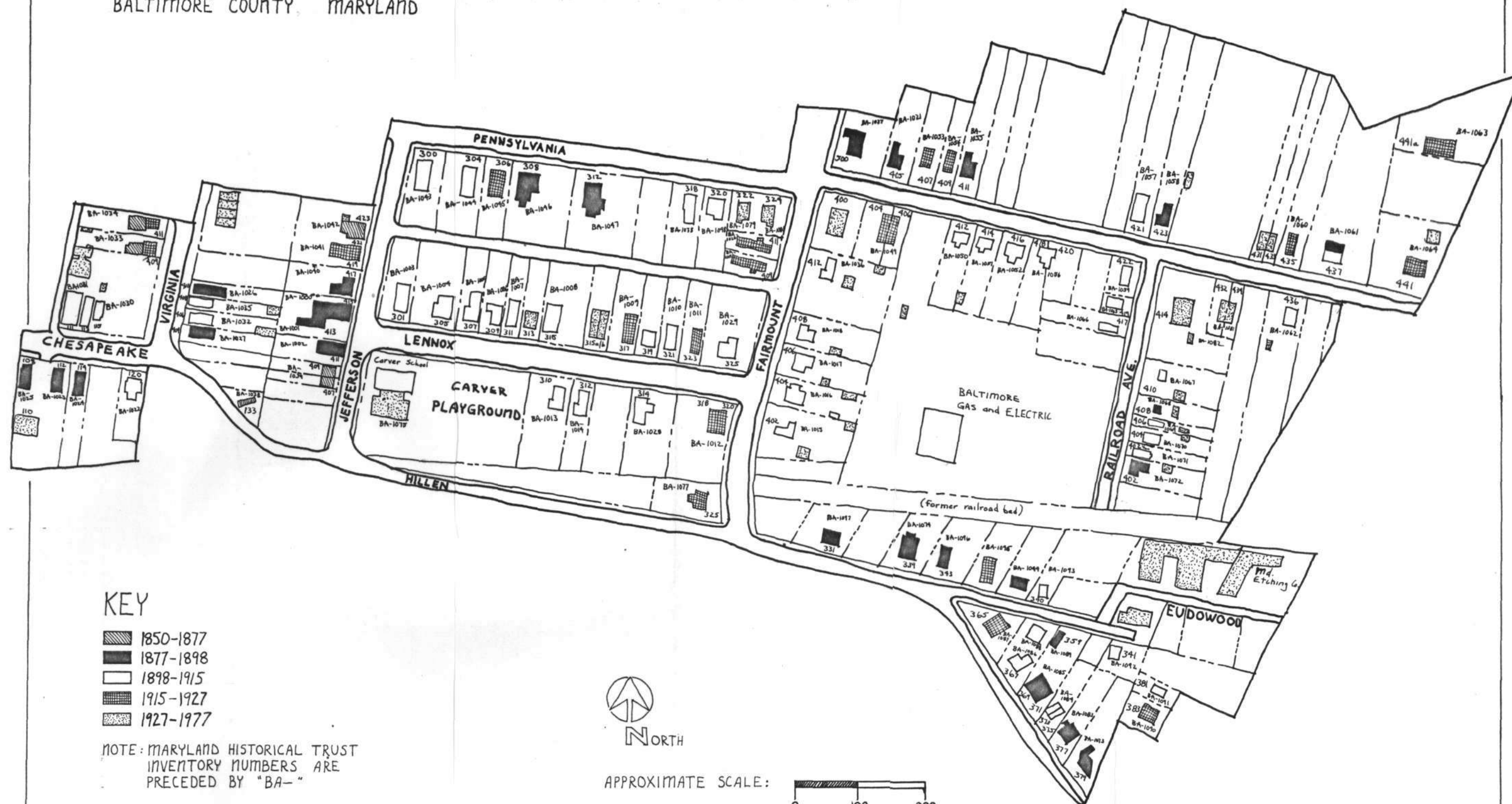


EAST TOWSON

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

HISTORIC DISTRICT

EA-2564



KEY

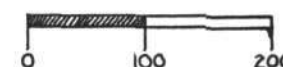
- 1850-1877
- 1877-1898
- 1898-1915
- 1915-1927
- 1927-1977

NOTE: MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INVENTORY NUMBERS ARE
PRECEDED BY "BA-"



NORTH

APPROXIMATE SCALE:



W. H. MOSEWITZ 1977

M. STINSON 7/77

BA-2564



422 East Pennsylvania
Towson, Md. Ave.

06211209396

POLAROID® 6

422 E. Pennsylvania



South side of Pennsylvania Ave. east of
Jefferson Ave.

BA-1046, 1045, 1044, 1043

Towson, Md.

Merry Stinson
1977

BA-2564



west side of Jefferson Ave. at Lennox
BA-1000, 1040, 1041, 1042
Towson, Md.

Merry Stinson
1977

BA-2564



west side of Jefferson Ave. at Lennox
BA-1039, 1002, 1000, 1040, 1041, 1042
Towson, Md.

Merry Stinson
1977

PA-2564



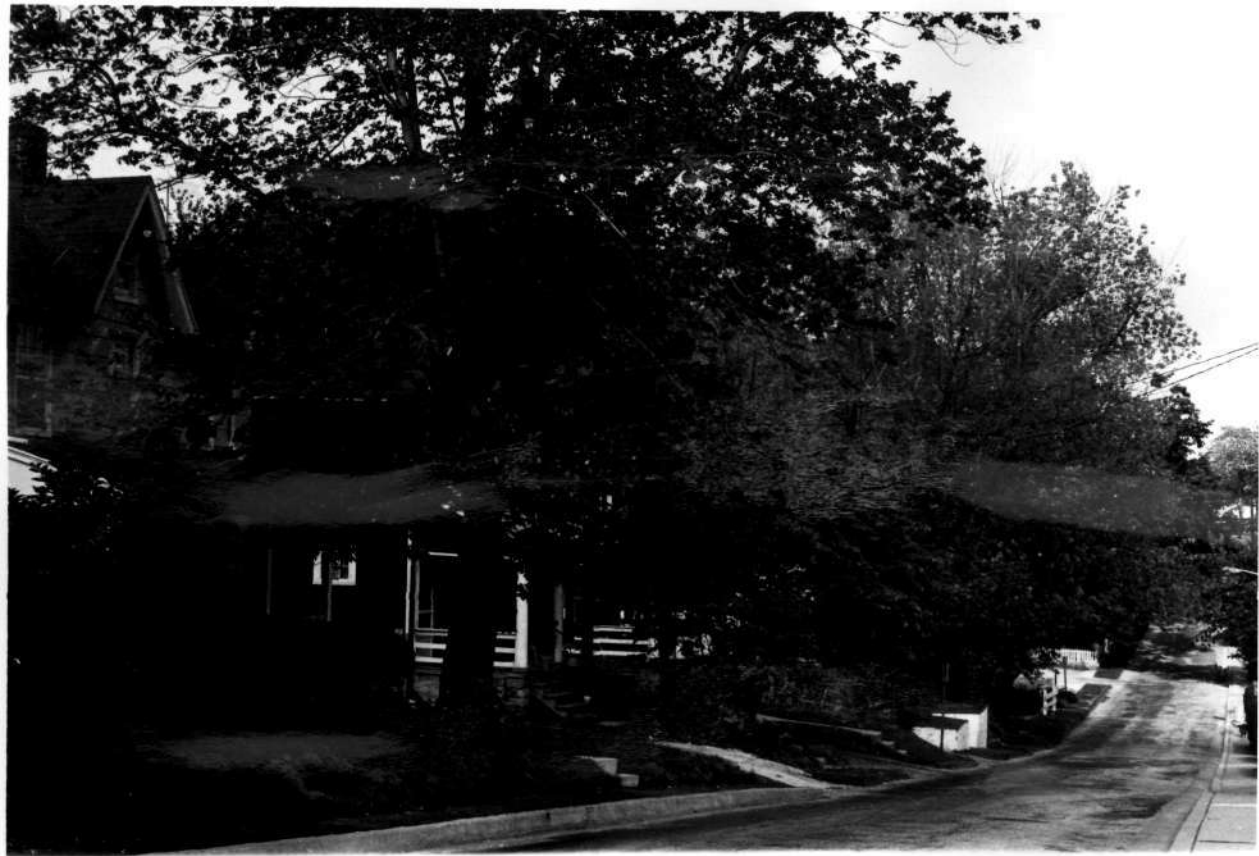
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